

OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HEALTHCARE INFORMATION DIVISION

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November 6, 2001

Dear Hospital or Clinic Administrator:

The Office is currently engaged in the final stages of development of MIRCal – Medical Information Reporting for California, our new online reporting system for patient level data. MIRCal is being developed under the provisions of Senate Bill (SB) 1973 (Chapter 735 of the Statutes of 1998) and phase one (hospital inpatient discharge reporting) will become operational shortly after the first of the year. Inpatient discharge data for the first six months of 2001 will be due on or before March 31, 2002 and Inpatient discharge data for the second six months will be due on or before May 31, 2002. Although implementation of phase one is six months behind our original schedule, an entire year's worth of hospital inpatient discharge data will become available some time in July of 2002. This is nearly six months ahead of the pre-SB 1973 schedule that was based on a cumbersome process of data submission via magnetic media and paper with intensive one-on-one interactions between state staff and facility staff.

SB 1973 also requires hospitals to report online a record for each encounter in an emergency department and requires hospitals and free standing ambulatory surgery clinics to report online a record for each encounter during which at least one ambulatory surgery procedure is performed. This second phase of MIRCal was slated to begin with encounters occurring during the 2002 calendar year. However, the delay in implementing phase one has also resulted in a delay in development of phase two. The delay is due, in large part, to changes in the State's information technology procurement method that went into effect shortly before we contracted for the development of phase one.

The Office will not be in a position to electronically collect the encounter data for hospital emergency departments and/or hospital and free standing ambulatory surgery clinics for encounters occurring during the 2002 calendar year. There will be no penalties invoked for non-reporting and no fees will be assessed of the clinics until such time as the new reporting systems for phase two are in place. The Office will involve and work with hospitals and clinics as we continue to develop phase two of MIRCal.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please feel free to contact me at (916) 323-8399 or at: mkassis@oshpd.state.ca.us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Kassiss".

Michael G. Kassiss
Deputy Director